



WEEKENDER

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May 14 2010

Progress Continues on 306th Bridge Site

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The plaque honoring our veterans has been installed.



The flag pole at 306th bridge site at night!

Be sure and visit our web site
at
<http://www.surfsideonline.org/>

Mark your calendars for the Dedication Ceremony June 14,
2010 11:00 AM

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
Regular Board Meeting
May 15, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.
Surfside Homeowners Association**

Note: The Board Room will open at 8:00 am to allow time for Board members to review and discuss agenda items and materials among themselves as needed prior to the start of the meeting.

Call to Order - Regular Board Meeting – Flood

Safety in the Workplace – Flood

Floor Comments (20 Minutes)

Adopt Agenda – Flood*

Approval of Minutes of the April 17, 2010 Regular Board Meeting– Flood*

Old Business

Update on Annual Meeting – Guest Speaker

2010 Board Goals - Update

New Business

Flag & Memorial Dedication Ceremony – 306th Bridge Site (Miller)

RV Committee Charter*

Nomination Committee - Debbie Richmond - Candidate Applications

Operations Manual Amendment – Election Process

Communications

Incoming Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Meetings & Contacts

Staff & Committee Reports

Receipt of Committee Reports*

Comments (10 minutes)

Recess to Closed Session on Personnel, Legal, & Contract Issues or Employee Matters (If necessary)

Reconvene to Open Session for Action Items (If necessary)

Floor Topics for the Good of the Order

Adjourn*

*** Requires Board Action**

NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The July 4th Float entry is underway for the Parade; the theme is 'Surfside Honors Our Veterans'. The Float Committee is inviting all Surfside men & women who have served in the Armed Forces to participate with us, either to ride, drive or walk. You can call, write, or email us with your ideas, names & contact numbers. We thank you!

The Garage Sale is upcoming in just 2 weeks. We need cartons & boxes to transport the items from the Compacter to the Office beforehand. Please drop off at the Compacter, no later than Monday May 24th. Thanks!

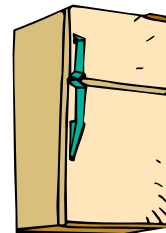
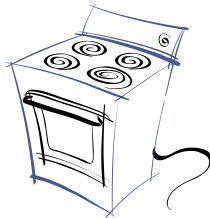
FREE APPLIANCE DROP-OFF DAYS

Pacific County DCDE along with the Long Beach Transfer Station and Royal Heights are offering two free appliance disposal days. These events allow residents to clean out old appliances that may otherwise end up along side of the road, in illegal dump sites, or languishing in the basement. The items must be taken to the local transfer station during the time of the event. Items accepted include: washers and dryers, hot water heaters, ovens and stoves, refrigerators, dishwasher, microwaves, and freezers.

Scheduled Disposal Dates:

May 22, 2010 and September 25, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



**OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010 FOR
MEMORIAL DAY**

GARAGE SALE

**SURFSIDE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
GARAGE SALE
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 28TH AND 29TH
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM EACH DAY
Surfside Business Office
31402 H Street**

The proceeds from this sale will be used for the purchase of shrubs and landscaping materials at the 306th Street bridge site. The beautiful brass plaque to honor our veterans has arrived and has been set in a concrete base next to the flag pole.

Donated garage sale items are needed and can be left with Nancy at the compactor.

CLEVER IDEAS WORTH KNOWING!

Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.



Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!

Peppers with three bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with four bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.

Watch for more clever ideas next week!

COYOTES

In pioneer days, **coyotes** (*Canis latrans*) were restricted primarily to the sagebrush lands, brushy mountains, and open prairies of the American West. Wolves occupied the forests. Coyotes have since taken advantage of human activities (including the reduction of gray wolf populations) to expand their range throughout North and Central America.

In Washington, these intelligent and adaptable animals now manage to occupy almost every conceivable habitat type, from open ranch country to densely forested areas to downtown waterfront. Despite ever-increasing human encroachment and past efforts to eliminate coyotes, the species maintains its numbers and is increasing in some areas. The coyote's tenacity tries some people's patience and inspires others' admiration.

At first glance, the coyote resembles a small German shepherd dog, yet its color can vary from animal to animal (Fig. 1). Shades include black, brown, gray, yellow, rust, and tan. Coyotes also have shorter, bushier tails that are carried low, almost dragging the ground, and longer, narrower muzzles than their dog cousins. Adult coyotes weigh 20 to 35 pounds, with males being slightly larger than females. At the shoulder, an adult male coyote is about 25 inches tall.

Facts about Washington Coyotes

Food and Feeding Habits

- Coyotes are opportunists, both as hunters and as scavengers. They eat any small animal they can capture, including mice, rats, gophers, mountain beavers, rabbits, and squirrels, also snakes, lizards, frogs, fish, birds, and carrion (animal carcasses). Grass, fruits, and berries are eaten during summer and fall.
- Grasshoppers and other insects are important to juvenile coyotes learning the stalk-and-pounce method of hunting.
- Pairs of coyotes or family groups using the relay method pursue small deer and antelope. These mammals are important food in winter; fawns may be eaten in spring.
- Coyotes eat wild species, but they are known to eat pet food, garbage, garden crops, livestock, poultry, and pets (mostly cats).
- Coyotes occasionally kill domestic dogs (and foxes) that they consider territorial intruders. Coyotes are also very protective of their young and will attack dogs that get too close to their den and pups. Note: The list of killers of domestic cats and dogs includes other dogs and cats, vehicles, bears, cougars, bobcats, foxes, disease, and furious neighbors!
- Most hunting activity takes place at night. Undisturbed and hungry coyotes will hunt during daylight hours, and may be seen following farm machinery, catching voles and other small prey.



Figure 1. At least 50,000 Coyotes are thought to be living in Washington (Photo by Ty Smeads)

COYOTES

Den Sites

- The female coyote digs her own den under an uprooted tree, log, or thicket; may use a cave, hollow log, or storm drain; or take over and enlarge another mammal's burrow.
- The den will have an entrance 1 to 2 feet across, be dug 5 to 15 feet long, and terminate in an enlarged nesting chamber.
- Coyotes usually have several dens and move from one to the other, minimizing the risk that a den containing young will be detected. These moves also help to prevent an accumulation of fleas and other parasites, as well as urine, droppings, and food refuse.

Coyotes use the same dens yearly or make new dens in the same area.

Reproduction and Family Structure

- Occasionally, a mated pair of coyotes will live, hunt, and raise pups together for many years, sometimes for life.
- Breeding occurs in late winter. After a gestation (pregnancy) of 63 days, an average of four pups are born from early April to late May. (Litter size can be affected by population density and food availability.)
- The young are principally cared for by the female; occasionally a nonbreeding sibling will assist with raising the litter. The male provides some care.
- Pups emerge from the den in two to three weeks and begin to eat regurgitated food. Because food requirements increase dramatically during pup rearing, this is a period when conflicts between humans and coyotes are common.
- Juvenile coyotes usually disperse alone or sometimes in groups at six to eight months of age. A few may stay nearby, while others seek new territory up to 50 miles away. The greater the amount of food available in a given area, the closer the juveniles will stay to their den.
- Coyotes can interbreed with domestic dogs; however, such crosses are rare.

Mortality and Longevity

- Coyote numbers are controlled by social stress, diseases, parasites, competition for food, and predators.
- Predators include humans, cougars, bears, and other coyotes. Eagles, dogs, and adult coyotes kill some coyote pups.
- Where coyotes are hunted and trapped, females produce more pups per litter than in areas where they are protected.
- Coyotes in captivity live as long as 18 years. In the wild, few coyotes live more than four years; the majority of pups die during their first year.

COYOTES

Where and When to See Coyotes

Coyotes are extremely wary. Their sense of smell is remarkable, and their senses of sight and hearing are exceptionally well developed.

Sightings of coyotes are most likely during the hours just after sunset and before sunrise. To view a coyote, locate a well-used trail and wait patiently from an area overlooking a canyon, ravine, or other area. A coyote will often come down the trail the same time every morning or evening. Also, you could watch a coyote's feeding area, such as a livestock or big game carcass.

By six months of age, pups have permanent teeth and are nearly fully grown. At about this time, female coyotes train their offspring to search for food, so it is not unusual to observe a family group.

Never approach an occupied coyote den. A mother's protective instincts can make her dangerous if she has young in or nearby the den. Den sites, and coyote activity, should be observed with binoculars or a spotting scope from a distance that does not visibly disturb the animals. Unfamiliar or new human activity close to the den, especially within one-quarter mile, will often cause coyotes to move, particularly if the pups are older, if the adults see you, or if the den is in an open area with little protective cover.

FRONT



HIND



Figure 3. Coyote tracks are more oblong-shaped than dog tracks. The normal track is about 2 inches wide and 2½ inches long, with the hind track slightly smaller than the front. The toenails nearly always leave imprints.
(Drawing by Kim A. Cabrera.)

COYOTES

Tracks, Trails, and other Signs

Look for coyote tracks in mud, sand, dust, or snow. Their trails are often found along draws, fence lines, game and livestock trails, next to roads, in the middle of dirt roads, and on ridge tops.

When a tree falls across a trail, coyotes have to either go over or under it, depending on their size. Those that go over tend to rub the bark off the top of the log; those that go under sometimes leave their hairs on the underside. Also look for coyote hairs on a wire fence where a trail runs next to or under the fence.

Droppings

Coyote droppings are found in conspicuous places and on or near their trails. The droppings are extremely variable in size, shape, and composition. Individual droppings average 3 to 4 inches long with a diameter of 1 inch. Droppings consisting of a lot of hair may be larger. The residue from pure meat is likely to be semiliquid and black. Those resulting from a diet of cherries, apples, blackberries, huckleberries, elderberries, or other fruits tend to crumble.

Feeding and Hunting Sites

When small mammals such as rabbits are eaten, the head, feet, and hide will have been eaten, leaving a scattering of fur at the feeding site. Bones, feathers, and fur can be seen next to den entries. Signs of digging occur where coyotes follow promising scents and excavate prey, including moles, voles, and gophers.

Calls

Coyotes create a variety of vocalizations. Woofs and growls are short-distance threat and alarm calls; barks and bark-howls are long-distance threat and alarm calls; whines are used in greetings; lone and group howls are given between separated group members when food has been found; and a yip-howl is often done after a group reunites. Juvenile coyotes are often heard in summer, trying out their voices (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Juvenile coyotes are often heard in summer, trying out their voices. (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.)

Coyotes are curious but timid animals and will generally run away if challenged. However, remember that any wild animal will protect itself or its young. Never instigate a close encounter.

If a coyote ever approaches too closely, pick up small children immediately and act aggressively toward the animal. Wave your arms, throw stones, and shout at the coyote. If necessary, make yourself appear larger by standing up (if sitting) or stepping up onto a rock, stump, or stair. The idea is to convince the coyote that you are not prey, but a potential danger.

Where coyote encounters occur regularly, keep noisemaking and other scare devices nearby. A starter pistol can be effective; so can a vinegar-filled super soaker or a powerful spray of water from a hose. Where pyrotechnics are out of the question, construct a “clapper” (Fig. 5). A solid walking stick, pepper spray, or paintball gun are powerful deterrents at close range.

If a coyote continues to act in an aggressive or unusual way, call your local wildlife office or state patrol



Figure 5. Construct a clapper by hinging together two, 24-inch 2 x 4s. Smack the two sides together.

COYOTES

Solutions to Problems

There were no documented coyote attacks on humans in Washington state until 2006. In April 2006, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officers euthanized two coyotes in Bellevue (King County) after two young children were bitten while their parents were nearby. Coyotes had also scratched and snapped at two women and charged a man in the same area. These coyotes' unusually aggressive behavior likely resulted from being fed by people.

From 1988 to 1997 in southern California, 53 coyote attacks on humans-- resulting in 21 injuries-- were documented by a University of California Wildlife Extension Specialist. A study of those incidents indicated that human behavior contributes to the problem.

Humans increase the likelihood of conflicts with coyotes by deliberately or inadvertently feeding the animals, whether by handouts or by providing access to food sources such as garbage, pet food or livestock carcasses. When people provide food, coyotes quickly lose their natural fear of humans and become increasingly aggressive. They also become dependent on the easy food source people provide. Once a coyote stops hunting on its own and loses its fear of people, it becomes dangerous and may attack without warning.

Prevention is the best tool for minimizing conflicts with coyotes and other wildlife. To prevent conflicts with coyotes, use the following management strategies around your property and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Don't leave small children unattended where coyotes are frequently seen or heard. If there are coyote sightings in your area, prepare your children for a possible encounter. Explain the reasons why coyotes live there (habitat/food source/ species adaptability) and what they should do if one approaches them (don't run, be as big, mean, and loud as possible). By shouting a set phrase such as "go away coyote" when they encounter one, children will inform nearby adults of the coyote's presence as opposed to a general scream. Demonstrate and rehearse encounter behavior with the children.

Never feed coyotes. Coyotes that are fed by people often lose their fear of humans and develop a territorial attitude that may lead to aggressive behavior. Try to educate your friends and neighbors about the problems associated with feeding coyotes. If you belong to a homeowner's association or neighborhood watch, bring up the subject during one of the meetings.

Don't give coyotes access to garbage. Keep garbage can lids on tight by securing them with rope, chain, bungee cords, or weights. Better yet, buy quality garbage cans with clamps or other mechanisms that hold lids on. To prevent tipping, secure the side handles to metal or wooden stakes driven into the ground. Or keep your cans in tight-fitting bins, a shed, or a garage.

Prevent access to fruit and compost. Keep fruit trees fenced, or pick up fruit that falls to the ground. Keep compost piles within a fenced area or securely covered. Cover new compost material with soil or lime to prevent it from smelling. Never include animal matter in your compost; it attracts coyotes. If burying food scraps, cover them with at least 12 inches of soil, and don't leave any garbage above ground in the area—including the stinky shovel.

Feed dogs and cats indoors. If you must feed your pets outside, do so in the morning or at midday, and pick up food, water bowls, leftovers, and spilled food well before dark every day.

Don't feed feral cats (domestic cats gone wild). Coyotes prey on these cats as well as any feed you leave out for the feral cats. Prevent the buildup of feeder foods under bird feeders. Coyotes will eat bird food and are attracted to the many birds and rodents that come to feeders. (See the handout, "Preventing Problems at Bird Feeders" for information on feeder management.)

Keep dogs and cats indoors, especially from dusk to dawn. If left outside at night in an unprotected area, cats and small to mid-size dogs may be killed by coyotes. Pets can be easy prey for coyotes. Being raised by humans leaves them unsuspecting once they leave the safety of your home. If you suspect losing a dog or cat to a coyote, notify your neighbors. Once a coyote finds easy prey it will continually hunt in the area.

Modify the landscape around children's play areas. Shrubs and trees should be pruned several feet above ground level so coyotes can't hide in them. Keep deterrents nearby in times of increased sightings. An old hockey stick, broom, or a pile of stones near the play area can help prepare children for an encounter and will remind them of effective encounter behavior.

May 2010

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----|----|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 <small>Architectural Meeting 9:00 AM</small> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 <small>Architectural Meeting 9:00 AM Bunco 6:30 PM</small> | 12 | 13 | 14 <small>Tree Committee Meeting 1:00 PM</small> | 15 <small>Board Meeting 9:00 AM Clam Digging 8:15 AM</small> |
| 16 <small>Clam Digging 8:58 AM</small> | 17 | 18 <small>Architectural Meeting 9:00 AM Float Meeting 1:00 PM</small> | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 <small>Architectural Meeting 9:00 AM</small> | 26 | 27 | 28 <small>Garage Sale 9-3</small> | 29 <small>Garage Sale 9-3</small> |
| 30 | 31  | | | | | |